

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02

OPIC-03 /098 W

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R 270645Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6373

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR, ENRG, CS, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN/CZECHOSLOVAK 1976 TRADE ACCORD

REF: PRAGUE 0142, BUCHAREST 0228

1. ROMANIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF RECENTLY SIGNED 1976 TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT REPORTED PRAGUE 0142. ARTICLE IN JAN 20 SCINTEIA REFERS TO AGREEMENT AS PROVIDING GROWTH IN TWO-WAY TRADE FOR 1976 OF OVER TEN PERCENT COMPARED TO 1975. SUCH A GROWTH WOULD PUT LEVEL AT ESTIMATED 2.5 TO 3.0 BILLION LEI (500 TO 600 MILLION DOLLARS AT 4.97 LEI PER US DOLLAR), BASED ON TREND UP THROUGH 1974. OFFICIAL ROMANIAN STATISTICS FOR 1975 NOT YET AVAILABLE.

2. AS REPORTED BUCHAREST 0228, ROMANIA GENERALLY EXPECTS TO DOUBLE ITS TRADE WITH OTHER CEMA PARTNERS (EXCEPT USSR).  
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WE WERE STRUCK BY LOW TARGET WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SINCE

WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROMANIA'S RECENTLY CONCLUDED TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENTS ARE BASED ON CURRENT PRICES, SUCH A LOW TARGET SUGGESTS VERY MODEST INCREASE IN PHYSICAL VOLUME OF TRADE.

3. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR LAMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO BUY MORE, IT JUST COULD NOT FIND ENOUGH ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS. HIS APOLOGETIC MANNER SEEMED MORE APPROPRIATE TO LOW RATE OF GROWTH REPORTED HERE THAN TO ENORMOUS INCREASE CITED BY CZECH PRESS.

4. WE ARE PUZZLED BY DIVERGENCE OF PRESS REPORTS IN TWO COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE HOPE EMBASSY PRAGUE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CLARIFY. WE SHALL ALSO INITIATE FURTHER QUERIES HERE.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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